

From: donald mead
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 4:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The DOJ argument in the Microsoft, MS, antitrust case were excellent. Please carry that excellence through to the end of the process and revise the settlement to reflect the findings in the case.

An example of one condition that would bring the settlement more inline with addressing the findings and be cleanly enforceable would be to require MS to make freely and publicly accessible -without any restrictions prohibiting outside usage- all specifications and related information for Application Programmer Interfaces (APIs,) protocols and other interconnections between all software and hardware components at least six months to one year before MS can release a second software component that utilizes that specification. Also when MS implements any standard established by an outside organization that MS be restricted to full compliance with the standard without any additions or modifications other than approved and incorporated into the standard through procedures established by the standard setting organization. Any violation would require MS to remove from the market -with a buy back plan- all products which contain a component which is in violation of this condition with the prohibition from engaging in any activity whatsoever with regard to the product -other than offering to repay any and all purchasers- for a term of six months to one year plus the time which the initial release fell short of compliance. Any further non-compliance would result in MS relinquishing to the public domain the source code for the violating software.

This specific part of a reasonable remedy would allow MS to continue innovating while allowing other vendors to fairly compete within the operating system or application area and restricting MS from using its monopolistic advantages from subverting standards designed to benefit a competitive community and the public.

Thank you for your considerable efforts and diligence,
donald mead
Tucson, AZ

[I am an independent computer consultant whose only connection with this case is that of a concerned citizen and computer user.]